

Goal 1: Colorado seniors will be able to live and fully participate in their communities of choice for as long as possible.

Outcomes and Strategies under consideration:

People will be able to go where they want to go, when they want to get there.

- Increase awareness of the mobility needs of an aging population.
- Make alternative transportation resources more available.
- Eliminate funding barriers that prevent the most effective use of existing systems.
- Ensure older adults are aware of options and resources available to them.

Support networks will give older adults confidence in using transit options.

- Develop volunteer systems and training programs for seniors.
- Improve communications about services and options.

Infrastructure will be adequate and reliable so older adults can remain independent.

- Ensure communities are walkable and offer easy access to public transportation.
- Improve public transportation spaces (lighting, benches, signage, snow removal, etc.).
- Implement driver's license monitoring programs.
- Encourage private industry to provide technology solutions to mobility challenges.

Building codes will meet the needs of an aging population, with universal design as the standard.

- Promote universal design standards and include them in local building codes.
- Educate the public on the benefits of universal design.
- Create incentives for developers and contractors to use universal design.

The supply of accessible, affordable housing will meet the needs of seniors at all income levels.

- Provide a variety of housing options and help seniors find those most appropriate to their situations.
- Increase the affordable housing stock in Colorado.
- Support public funding to produce and preserve affordable housing.
- Encourage innovative options such as co-housing, Accessory Dwelling Units, village concepts, and Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities.

Community planning and design practices will support senior health, wellness, and mobility.

- Revise local planning and zoning to foster mixed-use development and improve access to services, mobility, safety, and walkability.
- Develop accessible open spaces (paths free of trip hazards, available seating, shelter, toilets, etc.).
- Improve air quality, noise pollution, traffic congestion, and safety standards.
- Revise local planning and zoning to support inter-generational community models.

Older adults will have access to resources and services throughout their life cycles that support their aging in place within their communities.

- Create a multi-agency leadership team to coordinate the efforts recommended by previous task forces and commissions, including Community Living Advisory Group, Colorado Aging Framework, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Healthy Aging Plan, and the Colorado Alzheimer's Disease Plan.
- Coordinate among "care gap" programs to identify aging populations with limited incomes who do not qualify for existing programs and to identify additional resource needs.
- Expand existing ombudsman programs to help seniors with problems they may encounter with agencies, home health care and facilities in their communities.
- Develop a retirement education and planning program to assist people throughout the aging process.
- Develop innovative models to improve services in rural and underserved communities.

Goal 2: Older adults will be able to stay engaged in the labor force and volunteer sector for as long as they want or need.

Outcomes and Strategies under consideration:

Older adults will be able to continue to participate in the paid labor force.

- Provide education, training and support to ensure the workforce readiness or entrepreneurial activity of older adults.
- Increase workforce opportunities for older adults.
- Increase business development opportunities for older adults.
- Improve the perception of older adults as valued and valuable workers.

Older adults will be able to meaningfully contribute to their communities as volunteers and build the capacity of non-profits and public institutions.

- Provide education and training to ensure the readiness of older volunteers.
- Increase volunteer opportunities for older adults.
- Improve institutional readiness and willingness to leverage the skills and abilities of older volunteers
- Improve the perception of older adults as valued and valuable volunteers.

Industries and employers will be prepared for the aging of their workforce.

- Improve employer awareness of and preparation for the aging of their labor force.
- Improve employer readiness to leverage the skills and abilities of older workers.

Goal 3: Colorado seniors and their families will be more financially secure and prepared to meet the challenges of aging.

Outcomes and Strategies under consideration:

Workers of all ages will be able to save to be economically secure as they age.

- Ensure workplace opportunities for all workers to save for retirement.
- Protect against financial abuses and exploitation.
- Ensure workers and retirees continue to have access to stable, secure, and viable retirement plans, including defined benefit plans.

People will understand the importance of planning, know how to plan, and are motivated to plan to be economically secure as they age.

- Provide Coloradans with skills in personal financial management by the time they enter the workforce and throughout their lifetimes.
- Encourage Coloradans to increase their savings for contingencies as they age.

Goal 4: Coloradans will be prepared for the challenges of caring for aging loved-ones and will be able to do so without endangering their own health or well-being or the health and well-being of the recipient of care.

Outcomes and Strategies under consideration:

Families will be able to provide adequate care to loved ones based on patient and family choice without endangering their own earning potential or family resources.

- Encourage families to make and communicate multi-generational financial and health plans.
- Encourage families to plan for future health and care costs — including end of life — considering family history, health history and status, and anticipated retirement lifestyle.

- Increase the prevalence of workplace policies that help employees balance their work and unpaid caregiver obligations.

Caregivers will have access to respite services and resources that reduce stress and allow them to be better caregivers.

- Develop a comprehensive statewide system for respite care services.
- Make caregivers aware of resources available to them.
- Train caregivers about abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Goal 5: There will be enough skilled, educated and trained workers, paid commensurate to their abilities and training, to meet the needs of employers and industries serving Colorado's growing senior population.

Outcomes and Strategies under consideration:

Colorado's workforce will be sufficient to build the capacity of the wide range of industries serving older adults, including healthcare, social services, long-term care, transportation, housing, caregiving, and more.

- Increase awareness of the career opportunities in industries that are growing due to aging.
- Improve access to education and training to ensure the readiness of workers in these fields.
- Improve the image and desirability of professions serving older adults.

Goal 6: Older Coloradans will stay healthier longer through access to quality and affordable person-centered care that aligns with their preferences and values.

Outcomes and Strategies under consideration:

Older Coloradans will have access to quality, affordable, coordinated, person-centered care.

- Ensure older adults have access to a regular health care provider (medical and dental home).
- Provide access to case management and care coordination for those in need.
- Ensure transitions of care occur more safely.
- Align medical care delivery with patient preferences and values (e.g. the right care, at the right time, for the right person).

Colorado leaders will utilize resources that support informed health and wellness decision-making.

- Increase understanding by older adults and caregivers of their health service options.
- Use evidence-based programs that support healthcare decision-making and advanced care planning.
- Ensure access to patient-appropriate educational resources at the time of decision-making.

Colorado will foster programs, environments, and behaviors known to maintain health and well-being.

- Promote lifestyles that incorporate physical and mental exercise, nutrition, oral health, and social interaction.
- Ensure access to community programs that promote healthy lifestyles.
- Optimize physical, mental, oral and behavioral functions as needs change across the lifespan.
- Increase availability of services and programs to manage chronic disease.

Colorado will provide person-centered care for older adults with decreasing functional status.

- Increase participation in comprehensive care coordination programs (disease support, wellness coordination, hospital discharge, inter-facility transfer, nutrition, living situation, transportation, caregivers, etc.).
- Increase use of programs that promote quality of life for individuals with functional limitations.
- Increase awareness and timely use of palliative care across care settings.
- Include caregivers more often as members of care teams.

Goal 7: All levels of government will meet their commitments to support older Coloradans and their families.

Outcomes and Strategies under consideration:

Colorado policymakers will support federal programs and expenditures as the foundation for building the economic security, health, and well-being of seniors and their families.

- Improve understanding among elected officials, opinion leaders, and the public of the challenges and opportunities presented by an aging population.
- Improve understanding of the foundational role of federal programs such as Social Security, Older Americans Act, Medicare, and Medicaid.
- Support national efforts to keep these programs viable and effective for the long-term.
- Leverage and maximize all appropriate age-related federal programs, demonstration projects, and other funding opportunities.

Colorado will address the structural imbalance between state revenues and expenditures in a manner that ensures adequate resources for aging-related programs without undermining support for other state priorities.

- Increase coordination among Colorado agencies and with federal and local entities to identify gaps, set priorities, and maximize cost-effectiveness of public spending.
- Develop long-term financial planning scenarios for aging programs across state agencies and departments to ensure they are prioritized and adequately funded.
- Encourage Colorado's leaders to build public understanding of the state's fiscal challenges, including the fiscal impacts of an aging population.

Local governments will adapt to how the aging of their populations impacts their revenues and expenditures in order to maximize aging related services and the overall well-being of their communities.

- Improve understanding of how aging will impact local revenue and expenditures.
- Develop and implement comprehensive local and regional financing plans to address aging.

State and local governments will augment public resources through collaborative, innovative and diverse revenue and financing models, including public-private partnerships and other non-public opportunities.

- Engage a wide range of stakeholders to identify, develop, and implement innovative financing strategies.

Goal 8: Colorado will empower and protect seniors from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Strategies under consideration:

Public

- Establish a State Office for Guardianship.
- Ensure quality, effective Adult Protective Services are available to vulnerable older adults.
- Expand training for law enforcement and district attorneys on abuse, neglect and exploitation of vulnerable adults, as well as how to interact with this population and prosecute these crimes.
- Provide Long-term Care Liaisons to address redetermination of Medicaid.

Community

- Raise awareness of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation, and what people can do to report and prevent it.
- Assess need for community services and supports for older adults (particularly in rural communities).
- Train caregivers to recognize and help prevent abuse, neglect, and exploitation.